



SPARK GAP

Vol. 34, Issue 10, October 2017 MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-three years

On Our MARC:

I would like to thank Steve & Jeannie Brown for hosting the picnic again this year. The weather was nice, lots of good food and stories to tell. You would have been able to hear all the stories if you didn't get lost. Yes, I even got lost!

For those that didn't attend the picnic, here are your Officers for the current year: President - Jacki Frederick KI6QOG, Vice President – Ron Schuetz K9THR, Secretary - Rhonda Curtis WS9H, Treasurer – Marlys Barr KD9BHM and Trustee - Chris Frederick KQ9Y. Would like to thank Bruce for all his work the last two years. Good job Bruce!! You will be missed at our monthly officer's meeting.

The officers will be looking at ways that we can bring back old members, work on getting new members and keeping the current members. We will be discussing topics that the club might like to have presented. If you have any topics that you would like to see presented, please let us know.

Please mark your calendar for Oct 20th through the 22nd as Andrew Murrey will be hosting Jamboree on the air on with the Boy Scouts. I'm sure Andrew would like some help so if you have any time and would like to help, please send him an email. Also, please mark Oct 31st for the Goblin patrol. I'm hoping Dave Daily will have more information for us at the meeting. This is a yearly event and the Greenwood Police Department and the Johnson County Sheriff's Department really appreciate our help. And most likely all the car and truck traffic on I-65.

Hope to see you Saturday!

Jacki KI6QOG
President





Birthdays for the month of October:

*AF9SE-Steve Ellis
KC9NJM- Bob Jones
KN9C-Rudy Richardson
WV9W-Jim Smith
KC9ZMV-Clifford Whitrock
KD9FFH-Greg Mitchum*

TyMD380tools for Tytera MD-380

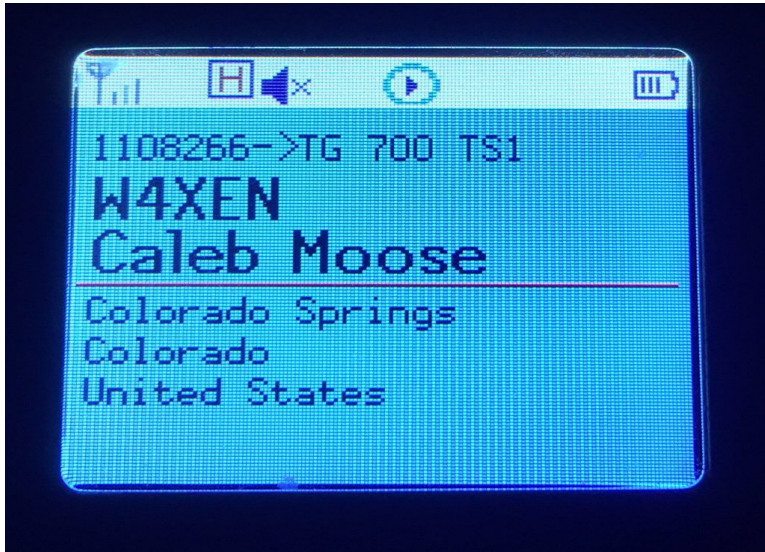
 15 October 2017 | by Bob KØNR



The Tytera MD-380 is an low cost radio for analog FM and DMR on the 70cm band . One of the limitations with the radio is that it only holds 1000 contacts...which seems like a lot of contacts but it fills up quickly. With DMR, each radio or user has a unique 7-digit radio ID number. For ham radio use, the DMR-MARC organization maintains a database that maps radio ID number to user name and callsign. If a user is in your contact list, the user's name and callsign pops up in your radio's display. Otherwise, you just see the radio ID which is not very helpful. There are over 63,000 users in the database with more being added on a daily basis.

There are a number of firmware updates to the MD380 and I have not checked them all out. I heard some guys talking about the TyMD380Tools on one of the DMR talkgroups, so I decided to give it a try. This software was developed by

KG5RKI and is easily installed from Windows without a lot of messing around. This firmware upgrade loads the entire DMR-MARC database into the radio. Now that I have the worldwide database of DMR users loaded onto the radio, its like having caller ID on my HT (see photo below). Actually, its better than that, it pulls up the other ham's full name, callsign and location information.



This may not seem like a big deal but I've found it to be surprisingly useful. I am often scanning a few channels or talkgroups with my radio and just listening casually. I may not be tracking who's talking but I can just look at the radio to see who's on the air. It's one of those convenience features that makes me think "why don't all of my radios do this?"

The TyMD380Tools implements a bunch of other features but increasing the number of contacts has been the most important one for me. This is a great example of radio amateurs adapting ("hacking") commercial gear with improvements for ham radio use. KK4VCZ, DL4YHF and others contributed to this code. Check out the software...seems to work great.

73, Bob K0NR

..... *Amateur Radio.Com* October 2017

ARES S.E.T. 2017

A powerful wind storm blew through Indiana September 30th knocking down trees (TEST) leveling homes and businesses (EXERCISE) and flooding many areas of the Hoosier state. The (SIMULATED) ARES test forced Johnson county ARES members to activate a four hour simplex net to handle emergency communications. At the helm was Johnson county ARES EC Bob LaGrange-N9SIU. He was assisted by RACES coordinator Dave Daily-KB9LOT and backup net control operator Brenda Haler-KC9EBL. Jack Parker-W8ISH was assigned to handle the digital Packet traffic while repeater Trustee Chris Frederick-KQ9Y assisted with EOC radio logistics. John McGrath-KF6EFG was on hand to lend assistance if needed.

Four VHF/UHF radios were used to run the simplex Net for Johnson county and to contact other counties working simplex during the morning exercise. Fourteen hams checked into the Johnson county net. Some were confused by the simplex communications. LaGrange explained that the statewide SET dictated that all counties were to bypass local repeaters and communicate via simplex. This statewide test had been planned for several weeks and ironically followed on the heels of real hurricane disasters in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico where simplex communications became necessary.

Johnson county stations checking in were plotted on a county wide map. This gave ARES officials a good idea on how well simplex communications can work if needed in a real disaster. At the end of the morning exercise Jack-W8ISH passed the Johnson county test results onto the Indiana SEC using the statewide 75 meter HF network. Bob-N9SIU was pleased with the response and felt the new EOC communications room behind the prosecutor's office worked well during the exercise.

..... *Jack-w8ish*



Bob and Chris tune radios



Dave mans the computer



Bob, Chris and Brenda



John KF6EFG here to assist

New Generator

Good news for the Johnson county Emergency Operations Radio Room. A multi-kilowatt Blue Star backup generator as been installed behind the prosecutors building. This will provide our EOC radio room a constant source of power if the city of Franklin or the prosecutors office loses power.

-w8ish



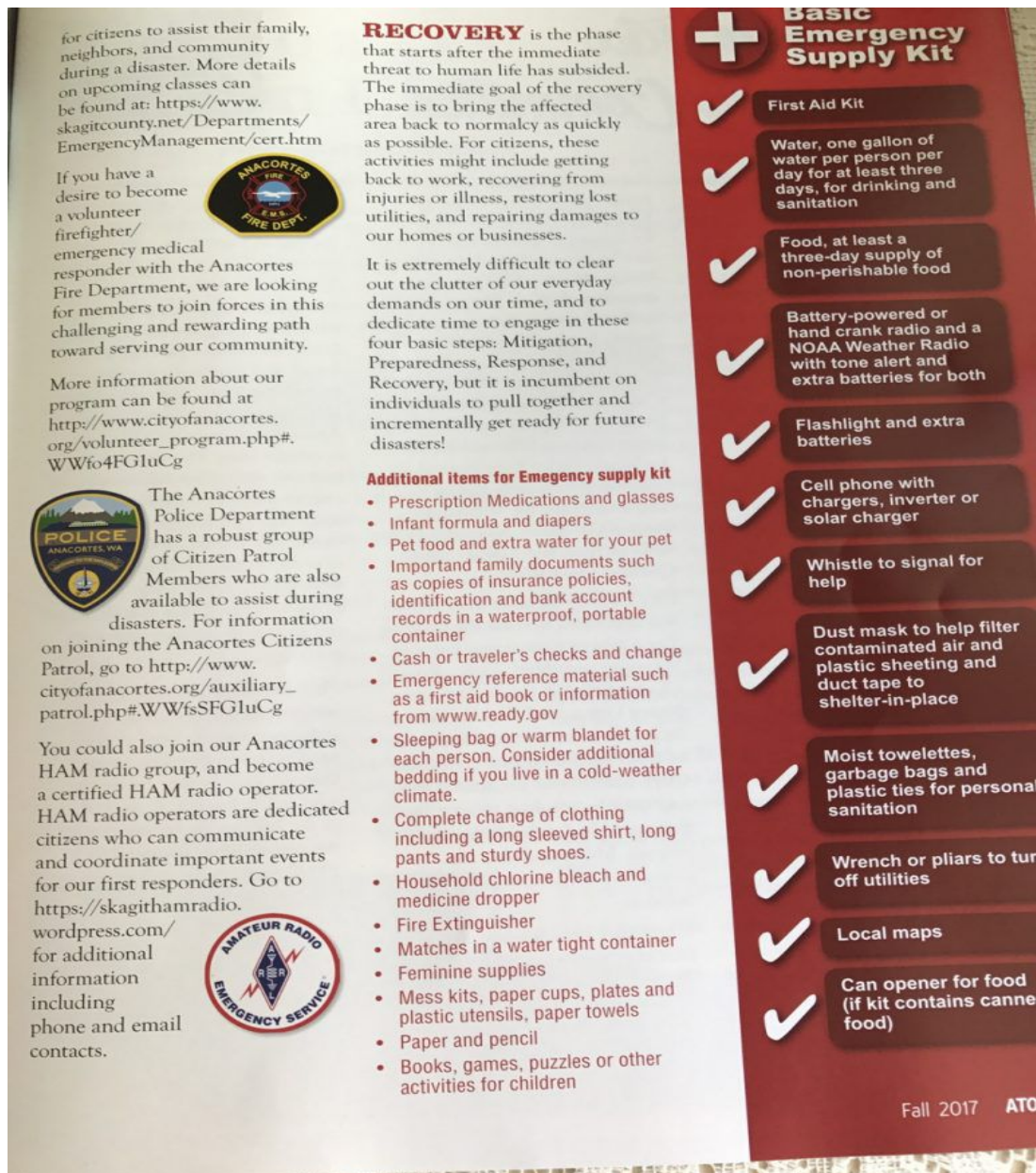
New Blue Star Generator

Ed. Note: The generator had just been installed and was not ready for use during the SET.

HAM? HAM radio? ham radio? Amateur Radio? amateur radio!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ARRL PR mailing list, we've been discussing the proper way to refer to amateur radio. What brought this up was an email from one list subscriber, Richard, WB6NAH, who was (rightfully) proud of the work that his club—the Skagit Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Club—was doing. He noted that they were even featured in the police department's emergency preparedness brochure:



As you can see, the brochure refers to "HAM radio" and "HAM radio operators."

Referring to amateur radio in this way just drives me crazy. "Ham radio" is just a nickname for amateur radio, and "HAM" is certainly not an acronym for anything. I congratulated Richard on getting his club included in the brochure, but noted, "...it's not HAM radio! It's either 'amateur radio' or 'ham radio' (ham is not an acronym). I hate to be nitpicky about this, but as a professional writer, this usage just drives me crazy." He replied, "I agree on Amateur Radio, that was the city's call."

That kicked off the discussion.

One ham replied to me privately, "Thank you...I am continually trying to explain that it is not an acronym or abbreviation."

Another replied to the list:

The most correct term is "amateur radio" or alternatively "ham radio", both written in normal case. If using "ham radio", it is a best practice to first write "amateur (ham) radio" in the first non-header/non-title occurrence.

Some will write "Amateur Radio" in proper noun format (first letters in caps) and while this may be acceptable to many and in certain venues, anyone using a style handbook will say it is incorrect. Less correct is to write "Ham Radio" in proper noun format as this is a slang term, albeit a popular one. Of course either term may be written as proper nouns when part of a title or name of an organization.

Least correct is to write "HAM" in all caps; as stated by others, ham is not an abbreviation or acronym. Writing it as "HAM" is completely wrong, will drive many people bonkers, and should be avoided at all costs.

Ward, N0AX, offered this explanation:

To clarify where the capitalization originated, there is a long-standing ARRL Board Directive, decades old, stipulating that the words "Amateur Radio" be capitalized in ARRL publications and documents. Most non-amateur publications return it to the lower-case style that is used for non-proper nouns.

One guy got a little miffed that we were wasting our time discussing this at all:

You know, I've been reading this thread and I think people are getting too hung up on very minor details. The bottom line they got PR. So something wasn't spelled right or capitalized, so what. The message got out and IMHO that's the bottom line. Let's not waste any more bandwidth on this.

I agreed that it was great that they were included in the brochure, and that we were probably beating this topic to death, but I don't think these are minor details. I said that PR professionals pride themselves on getting the details right. So should amateur radio PR people.

I'll give the final word to Dan, AI4GK. He wrote:

I don't think that standardizing what we call ourselves qualifies as getting hung up on minor details. If we don't have a standardized way of referring to us, how can we expect a public, who already is confused, to understand who we are?

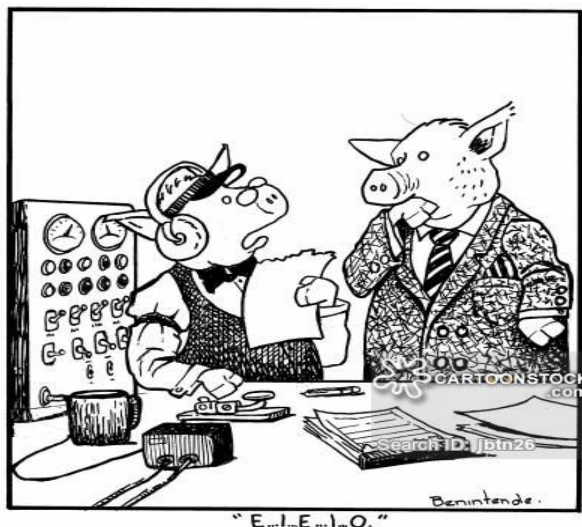
I don't think that you can argue with this. Let's avoid confusion by using "amateur radio" when writing about our hobby/service. I'd even urge the ARRL to rethink their use of "Amateur Radio." Sometimes, it may be OK to use "ham radio," but it's just not correct to use "HAM radio" or just "HAM."

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not picking nits about the name of our hobby, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

The lighter side of HAM Radio



Just in time for the Fall Season!



UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

10/21/2017 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

10/21/2017 – 0800 Shelby County Talegate Hamfest – Free – Shelby County Fairgrounds

10/31/2017 – Halloween – Goblin Patrol – after 1830

11/18/2017 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

12/16/2017 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Annual Christmas Pitch-in Breakfast

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

01/20/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

02/17/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

03/17/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

Reminder: This is JOTA Weekend

10/19/2017

With nearly 600 stations in the US registered to take part in Scouting's 60th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) October 20-22, and many more planning to operate around the world, expect some additional activity on the bands. Listen for JOTA stations and help to introduce some Scouts to Amateur Radio. JOTA uses Amateur Radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in communities. The Boy Scouts of America has posted operator guidelines and suggested frequencies.



For more information go to www.arrl.org

MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Ron Schuetz -K9THR
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Marlys Barr – KD9BHM
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month



Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.